

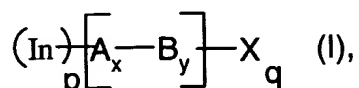
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claim 2.

Kindly replace claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 by the following claims.

1. (amended) A composition comprising

a) 0.1 - 99.9 % by weight of a block copolymer of the formula:



wherein:

In represents a polymerization initiator fragment of a polymerization initiator which is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈-alkyl halides, C₆-C₁₅-aralkylhalides, C₂-C₈-haloalkyl esters, arene sulfonyl chlorides, haloalkanenitriles, α-haloacrylates and halolactones;

p represents one or two;

A and B represent polymer blocks which differ in polarity and consist of repeating units of ethylenically unsaturated monomers and wherein the difference in polarity is obtained by copolymerizing polymer blocks A and B with different amounts of functional monomers;

x and y represent numerals greater than zero and define the number of monomer repeating units in polymer blocks A and B;

X represents a polymer chain terminal group; and

q represents a numeral greater than zero; and

b) 0.1 - 99.9 % by weight of dispersible inorganic or organic pigment particles, provided that thermosetting compositions are excluded.

3. (amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of functional monomers in each polymer block A or B differs from the other polymer block by at least 20 % by weight.

8. (amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the dispersible organic pigment particles of component b) are selected from the azo pigment group consisting of azo, disazo, naphthol, benzimidazolone, azo condensation, metal complex, isoindolinone, isoindoline, chinophthalon and

dioxazine pigments and the polycyclic pigment group consisting of indigo, thioindigo, quinacridones, phthalocyanines, perylenes, perionones, anthraquinones, anthrapyrimidines, indanthrones, flavanthrones, pyranthrones, anthantrones, isoviolanthrones, diketopyrrolopyrroles, carbazoles and pearlescent flakes.

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9. (amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the dispersible inorganic pigment particles of component b) are selected from the group consisting of aluminum, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, silicates, iron(III) oxide, chromium(III) oxide, titanium(IV) oxide, zirconium(IV) oxide, zinc oxide, zinc sulfide, zinc phosphate, mixed metal oxide phosphates, molybdenum sulfide, cadmium sulfide, carbon black, graphite, vanadates, chromates, molybdates, and mixtures or crystal forms thereof.

Please add the following claim.

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--19. (new) A method for preparing coating compositions, prints, images, inks or lacquers which comprises incorporating a the pigment dispersion according to claim 1 therein.--

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 were pending in this application.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barkac et al. '433 (U.S. Patent 6,268,433).

Claims 1-2, 5-9 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barkac et al. '391 (U.S. Patent 6,391,391).

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barkac et al. '391 (U.S. Patent 6,391,391).

Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matyjaszewski et al. (U.S. Patent 5,087,937) in view of either Pearlstine et al. (U.S. Patent 6,087,416) or Kappele et al. (U.S. Patent 6,063,834).